

The French House
Near Fellowship, Camden County, New Jersey
Maple Street *Camden*

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HABS-~~NJ~~-211

HABS
N.J.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The French House
Near Fellowship, Camden County, New Jersey

Owner: Burlington County Trust Company
Moorestown, New Jersey

Date of Erection: First section about 1730;
second unit 1785

Architect:

Builder: James Childs for earlier part; Charles
French, III for later unit

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick,
front miscellaneous bond;
the side walls anticipate
the modern manner - every
sixth row, with a few
exceptions, is a header
row

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch, shingles

Historical Data:

The land upon which this house is built was
in the possession of the Inskeep brothers - James,

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Joseph, and John, Jr. - prior to November 8, 1727, when they sold it to their father John, Sr. John Inskip, Sr. was one of the four justices of Gloucester County in 1727. On December 31, 1728 he sold the land to James Childs, who built the first part of the house shortly afterwards.

On April 20, 1747 Childs sold it to Charles French, Jr. The tract of land consisted of 259 acres located on Pensauken Creek partly in Burlington County and partly in old Gloucester County. Charles, Jr., who was known as "Straight Roads French" because of his vigorous advocacy of direct highways, increased his holdings in 1782 to 460 acres. When Charles, Jr., died he left this house to his son, Charles III, who built the second section in 1785. On the end wall of the newer section appears the initials "C.S.F. 1785" indicating that Charles and Sabilla French were the builders.

The house has an immense fireplace with a "brick enclosed boiler annexed for pig killing time uses."

Charles, III died in 1834 and the farm remained in the possession of his widow until her death when it was sold.

Bibliography:

French, H.B. (compiler) Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas French Who Came to America from Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire, England, and Settled in Burlington, in the Province and

N.J.

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County of West New Jersey, of Which
He Was One of the Original Proprietors
Together with William Penn, Edward
Byllynge, Thomas Ollive, Gawen Laurie
and Others Two Volumes, Philadelphia,
Published by the Author, 1909-1913

Court records searched by O.F. Benjamin

Material collected by Elizabeth and
Frances Moffett



Supervising Historian

Approved:



SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

Rec. Jan. 25. 31 - Tlw